



**National Wildlife Federation
Great Lakes Natural Resource Center**

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November 30, 2010

The Honorable Jeff Mayes
Chairman, House Energy and Technology Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
S1285 House Office Building
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Chairman Mayes,

Thank you for your consideration of H.B. 6564, watershed legislation addressing siting and permitting of offshore wind turbines and related infrastructure in Michigan's Great Lakes.

As a clean and renewable energy source, wind energy is a rapidly growing part of the nation's energy supply. The Great Lakes region can be a major supplier of wind energy and the jobs that come with it. But only if we intelligently site and construct wind energy projects. National Wildlife Federation believes that H.B. 6564 represents a very worthy first step in this process. NWF participated in several of the Michigan Great Lakes Offshore Wind Council public hearings throughout 2010, and we highlight Michigan's inclusive, responsible approach to siting as a model for other offshore wind initiatives across the Great Lakes.

Developing wind energy projects in the Great Lakes poses both enormous opportunities and significant challenges. **We just can't say 'no' to offshore wind.** It is too important a clean energy source. By reducing our dependence on oil, coal and natural gas, offshore wind energy not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but also reduces other pollution emissions (like mercury) and damage from extractive industries. Wind is a proven source of green manufacturing jobs and investment in our communities.

NWF asks that you move H.B. 6564 forward this year. We look forward to working with legislators and Administration officials to refine aspects related to the proposed 6-mile buffer, programmatic details of wildlife, aquatic and habitat research and monitoring, and the selection of members to the proposed Advisory Committee.

Let's seize this opportunity to strengthen Michigan's economy while at the same time reducing pollution for the benefit of people today and our children tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Andy Buchsbaum
Regional Executive Director
National Wildlife Federation
Great Lakes Regional Center
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cc: Michigan House Energy and Technology Committee

Inspiring
Americans
to protect
wildlife for
our children's
future.

